

HOUSE RESOLUTION 7015

By Burkhardt

A RESOLUTION to recognize Dunbar Cave State Park on the occasion of its fiftieth anniversary.

WHEREAS, we are pleased to recognize one of our finest State parks as it celebrates a historic milestone of preserving its natural and cultural resources for both the Tennesseans of today and generations to come; and

WHEREAS, one such facility is Dunbar Cave State Park in Clarksville, which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year as an official Tennessee State park; and

WHEREAS, a State natural area, Dunbar Cave State Park was purchased by the State of Tennessee fifty years of ago due to its historical significance and natural beauty; and

WHEREAS, Dunbar Cave State Park encompasses 144 acres, with the cave site used between 800 A.D. and 1550 A.D. by the Mississippian Native American tribes, who left behind artifacts and charcoal drawings that can still be seen today; it is the only place in the world where the public can view Native American cave art; and

WHEREAS, the original property was claimed in 1790 by Isaac Rowe Peterson from North Carolina, and during the Civil War, the cave was used as a meeting place and for social gatherings. The Confederate Army used the cave to hide troops and horses, and following the Civil War, the area around Dunbar Cave was known as Affricanna Town, a refuge for formerly enslaved individuals; and

WHEREAS, over the years, Dunbar Cave became a popular attraction, and the construction of the Idaho Springs Hotel nearby in the late 1880s transformed the area into a wellness resort during its fifty years of ownership changes; and

WHEREAS, in 1948, country music legend Roy Acuff purchased the cave and converted it into a country music concert venue; after Mr. Acuff sold the property in 1963, it remained inactive until the State of Tennessee purchased it in 1973; and

WHEREAS, becoming part of the State park system, Dunbar Cave was declared a State natural area, and the original bathhouse, built in 1933, was renovated and repurposed as the Visitor's Center; and

WHEREAS, today, Dunbar Cave State Park remains a valuable place of beauty and history in Clarksville and Montgomery County; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize Dunbar Cave State Park on the celebration of its fiftieth anniversary and extend our gratitude to the park's staff members, both past and present, for their service to the good people of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.